



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# MAY DESIGNATED AS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

At the encouragement of the South Dakota Department of the Military, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as "National Military Appreciation Month," a time for all to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families.

National Military Appreciation Month includes: Loyalty Day on May 5, Victory in Europe Day on May 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 9, Armed Forces Day on May 17 and Memorial Day on May 26.

These days provide an opportunity to learn more about military members and the families who have given of themselves to support and defend the principles we hold dear.

"Let us dedicate this month to honor all of our military men and women and their families and educate the youth of our nation on the historical impact the US military has had for our country," said Adjutant General Timothy Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military. "This nation's veterans and their families have contributed so much to earn and preserve the freedoms we all enjoy."



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Heroes Among Us—  
showcasing 125 South  
Dakota veterans.



## MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY



We recently received a note from a Iraq War Veteran who has written a historic fiction entitled "*Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*."

Experience key U.S. Civil War battles through the eyes of a black stallion whose future generations will carry notable military leaders into American wars. *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*. A U.S. Civil War Horse Perspective: 1861-1865 is the first of a series of historical fiction books used to pay tribute to the American men and woman who served honorably for our country. The main character, Lucky, finds the will to survive many battles that defined America.

*Mine Eye Have Seen the Glory* was crafted to remind its readers that the Civil War was not that long ago. With a dose of imagination, the key book characters saw the same defeats and triumphs the men experienced while fighting for their respective sides—North or South.

## OPERATION RAV GENERATING SUCCESS



SDDVA Field Officers and County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers hosted 19 RAV Open Houses in April.

Open Houses were held in the South Dakota Communities of: Turton, Mellette, Florence, Wallace, Rosholt, Kennebec, Tyndall, Mitchell, Fort

Pierre, Corsica, Lemmon, Lake Norden, Woonsocket, Pollock, Burke, Wagner, Bison, Mound City and in Hankinson, ND.

In addition, over 8,000 veterans were contacted via the Operation RAV telephone campaign.



## VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT THE STATE VETERANS HOME

Saturday night was a night of celebration and honor at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Volunteers were thanked and honored for their over 7,000 hours of volunteer service at the State Veterans Home. If you multiplied that by minimum wage that's over \$52K of work!!!!

Volunteers come from all walks of life— veterans service organizations, fraternal organizations, South Dakota National Guard, Ellsworth Air Force Base, local Hot Springs residents, MJFSVH staff (volunteering on their off hours), and residents.

This total does not include the people that assist with the fishing/hunting trips. This number reflects on-site volunteer hours.

Special thanks to the Custer VFW and Auxiliary for serving the meal to



The best way for find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. (Ghandi)

the volunteers.

How wonderful that no one need wait a single moment to improve the world. (Anne Frank)

It's not how much you do, but how much love you put in the doing. (Mother Theresa)

To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own. (Abraham Lincoln)

All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own (Anonymous)

A candle loses nothing of its light when lighting another (Kahlil Gibran)



## HEROES AMONG US

As noted on the front page, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as "National Military Appreciation Month," a time for all to honor, remember, recognize and appreciate those who have served in the past and those now serving, as well as their families. In support of this recognition, this week's "Heroes Among Us" honors **ALL those who have served** and **ALL those who are serving**.

And we ask all of you to remember that the 1742nd TC is still serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



# HEROES AMONG US

## The Best on Earth:

If someone has done military service,  
They earn the title "veteran," and more;  
They earn our deep respect and admiration;  
That they are special no one can ignore.

They sacrificed the comforts we enjoy;  
The list is long of all the things they gave;  
Our veterans are extraordinary people;  
They're loyal, dedicated, true and brave.

When terror and invasion were real threats,  
They showed us they could handle any storm.  
We owe our freedoms and our very lives  
To our veterans, who served in uniform.

Our veterans should be celebrities;  
They're exceptional; no other group compares.  
We're grateful for the many things they've done;  
They're always in our hearts and in our prayers.

We owe our veterans support and friendship;  
Let no one ever question what they're worth.  
These men and women served us and our country;  
Our veterans—the very best on earth.

*By Joanna Fuchs*



## HEROES AMONG US

### Take A Moment To Say Thank You

When you see someone in a uniform  
Someone who serves us all,  
Doing military duty,  
Answering their country's call,  
Take a moment to thank them  
For protecting what you hold dear;  
Tell them you are proud of them;  
Make it very clear.

Just tap them on the shoulder,  
Give a smile, and say,  
"Thanks for what you're doing;  
To keep us safe in the USA!"

*By Joanna Fuchs*



# Upcoming Events

## 2014

May 2-4—DAV State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen  
May 2-4—Vietnam Era Reunion—Deadwood Gulch—Deadwood  
May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street—10:00 am (MT)  
May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street—10:00 am (CT)  
May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings - City/County Building, 520 3<sup>rd</sup> Street—10:00 am (CT)  
May 15—National Military Appreciation Month Flag Ceremony—St. Thomas More Middle School  
May 17—Sioux Falls Armed Forces Day Program—SFVAHCS  
Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer  
Jun. 14—SD Marine Corps League State Convention—Pierre Post 8 Legion Cabin—10:30 am  
Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am  
Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm  
Aug. 22—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux City, IA  
Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
Sept. 5—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Watertown  
Sept. 11—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Wagner  
Sept. 19—SFVAHCS Stand Down—Sioux Falls  
Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

## ARMED FORCES DAY PROGRAMS

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman to deliver keynote addresses at the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day and the National Military Appreciation Month Flag Day Ceremony at St. Thomas More Middle School in Rapid City.

The Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Armed Forces Day will be held at the Sioux Falls VAHCS (2501 W. 22nd Street) at 10:30 am on May 17.

The National Military Appreciation Month program will be held at 2:30 pm on May 15 at St. Thomas More Middle School (300 Fairmont Blvd) in Rapid City.

The public is invited to both events.



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